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REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

District 35

December 27, 2004

Country of Origin Labeling Program
Room 2092-S
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA STOP 0249
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Re: Docket No. LS-03-04

I would like to take this opportunity to register my opposition to the exclusion of canned, smoked and cured seafood from the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Program.

This application of COOL would provide an important protection to the American seafood consumer. By allowing consumers the knowledge of where a product is from, they can then choose to support or not support the practices, varying by country, utilized in the production and/or harvest of this product.

Additionally, this application could help protect the American seafood producer who is in direct competition with other countries for American market share. The rising trend in regional and niche seafood marketing as a response to competition from the international farmed fish industry could be adversely affected by this void in labeling requirements.

Please re-insert canned, smoked and cured seafood into the COOL program.

Sincerely,

Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska State Legislature
District 35